

# NUMISMA.

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FOR SALE—A large quantity of American Silver, dollars, half-dollars, quarters, dimes, and half-dimes, ranging from 1784 to the present date. Also foreign coins, ancient and modern. Address Box 1064, New London, Connecticut.

A private collector wishes to purchase rare issues of Continental and Colonial Paper Money, for which the highest cash prices will be paid. Address, N. Y. Z., Care of Numisma.

COINS.—For price list address Fred. E. Elder, Sheffield, Iowa.

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ought to be thrown aside. The debate was continued next day, Mr. Livingston having modified his motion, which, however, was lost, ayes 40, nays 45. Mr. Williams' amendment, striking out the \$10,000 for copper, which had been passed in Committee, was lost, ayes 34, nays 44. Thus the Mint, by the vote of a very small majority, continued on its course, after reflections and denunciations of the severest kind. BARRATT.

## NUMISMA.

ED. FROSSARD, IRVINGTON, N. Y.

Editor and Proprietor.

PRICE 10 CTS. PER COPY.

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ADVERTISEMENTS, LIMITED TO 3 LINES, 25c. each insertion.

### ON A GREEK COIN SHOWING THE HEAD OF VENUS,

This is the face that shone when Greece was free;  
And haloed by gray cloud, or foaming wave,  
Thrilled coward hearts, and made them strong and brave;  
For love that ruled supreme, love whose degree  
Was greater than the greatest king's could be,  
Glowed in the eyes, whose brightness was the grave  
Of wise resolves, that should poor mortals save  
From this Imperial glory of the sea.  
The cool, sweet freshness of the sunlit deep,  
Lay warm and tender on her cheeks' soft flush,  
And made delicious her rich fragrant breath;  
Ah, how can such enchanting beauty sleep,  
Where sombre shadows fill the eternal hush,  
That lies so heavy on the land of death?

THOS. S. COLLIER.

### MEDALS AND COINS OF THE FIRST MEXICAN EMPIRE.

#### MEDALS.

The final independence of Mexico from Spanish rule was achieved by Agustín Iturbide and the army under him, without bloodshed, at Acapulco on the Pacific coast, by the promulgation of what was called the "plan of Iguala," Feb. 24, 1821,—equivalent to a declaration of independence,—which was accepted sooner or later by all the provinces as then called. Guatemala was at that time one of the Mexican provinces.

Iturbide was an officer of the Spanish army of Mexican birth, and had distinguished himself against the patriots Morales and Hidalgo in the first revolt which began in 1810. He was proclaimed Emperor May 18, 1822.

Previously at least three medals were struck commemorative of the independence of the empire. They do not relate to Iturbide, viz:

Mexico. Crowned eagle perched on nopal growing on a rock surrounded by water, "J. Guerrero." Rev. "Mejico en la solemne proclamacion de la independencia del imperio a 27 de Octubre de 1821." Silver and copper. Silver, 21; copper 22. Edges different.

Mexico. Eagle perched upon a mantel hanging over a bow mantel inscribed, "Agustino de Iturbide, libertatio, patriae, vindici, strenvo, Mexican, Imper. An. I." "Dedicada por el mismo artifice." Rev. *Mexico* as an Indian female presenting the soldier Iturbide with sword, scarf and laurel wreath. "Pro religione et Patria" in exergue "Jose Guerrero Nl. de Mo. A. de 1821." Copper and silver, 36

Toluca. Larger crowned eagle similar to above. Rev. "Toluca en la feliz proclamacion de la yndepa. del ymperio mejicano a 12 de Mayo de 1822." Silver and cop., 21

#### ITURBIDE MEDALS.

1822.

Mexico. Ob. same as above. Rev. "Inauguracion de Agustin primer Emperador de Mexico, Julio 21 de 1822." Silver, 22

Guadalajara. Bust to right. "Agustin primer Emp<sup>o</sup> constitucional<sup>o</sup> de Mo<sup>o</sup> V<sup>o</sup> Medina<sup>o</sup> I<sup>o</sup>" Rev. "En su Augusta proclamacion la catedral de Guadaluaxara, 1822." Silver, 25

Guadalajara. Ob. same die as above. Rev. Tree and two wolves. "Guadaluaxara en su venturosa, 'proclamacion,' 1822." Silver, 25

Guadalajara. Ob. same die as above. Rev. Crown and rays. "El Consulado de Guadaluaxara, 1822." Silver, 25



Guadalajara. Bust to left same as above, "Agustin I. Div. Prov. unan. ferventiq. voto imp. M. 1822. Medina F." Rev. "Virtute non sanguine." "Guadalax, Academ. lubenti animo primo anahuac parent." Silver and copper gilt oval, 26x24

Durango. Arms of Durango "Agustin I. Emperador constitut. de Mexico." Rev. "Proclamado en Durango ano de 1822." Silver and copper, 22

Mexico. "Agustin I Emperador constitucional de Mexico." Rev. "Proclamado en la M. N. VI Zacats, por su ayuntamiento comercio y mineria a 25 de D bre de 1822." Silver and copper, 20

Quesaltenango. Head to left. "Agustin I. Emperad de Mexico. Rev. "Proclamado en Quesalt. A. de 1822." Silver, 13

Guatemala. Head to left. "Agustin I, Emperad. de Mexico." Rev. "Guat en la proclam. de su 1a Emp. 26 de Dec. de 1822. 20 de la Indep." Silver, 13

Oaxaca. Head to right. "A. Agustin I Empera'or Constitucional de Meji'o." "F. Gordillo" Rev. "Lo juro en el ano de 1822, la M. N. C. de Oajaca." Above and below the inscription an ornament of leaves and flowers. Silver, size, 24

Oaxaca. Head facing right, surrounded by this legend. "A Agustin I. Emperador Constitucional de Meji." Rev. Inscription in five lines "Lo juro el 8 de Diciembre deli ano 1822 la M. N. C. de Oajaca" Leaves and flowers above and below. Silver, size, 18

Guanajuato. Heads accolated to right. "La\* N\* T\* L\* C\* de\* Guanajuato\* Proclamado\* A\* Sus\* Augustos\* Emperadores" "Agustin I y Ana. Maria" Rev. "Les. D. O. y C. este monumento de su fidelidad ano 1822." "Trasgallo." Silver. 23

Aguascalientes—Crown and rays scepter and sword crossed below. "A. Agustin I Emperador Constitucional de Mexico." Rev.

"Proclamado por el ayuntamto de Aguascalientes A 12 de D'bre de 1822. Silver and Copper. 20

Chiapas. Head to left. "Las Chiapas por Agust I. 1822." Rev. shield with crowned eagle on nopal "Chiapas proclaman constancia." Silver. 13

1823.

Mexico. Large head to right "Agust.\* Mex\* I\* Imperator\* Constitut." "F. Gordillo"—Rev. "Protomedicatus ejus\* que\* sodales\* oblatam\* jam\* fidem exiguo\* Hoc\* munere denuo\* testantur\* 1823\*" Silver 25

Mexico—Bust to right. "Agustiu Primero. Emperador por la divina providencia." "J. Guerrero, F." Rev. Crowned eagle on nopal. "En su solemne proclamacion la ciudad de Mexico" In exerge "A 24 de Enero de 1823." On edge "Dios protege al imperio Mexicano." Gold, silver and copper. 25

Mexico. Crowned eagle perched on an arrow over which hangs a cloth inscribed "La patria lo eleva al trono," Below—"J. Guerrero." Rev. In script on oval shield—"Agustin Primer Empr. Constitucion 1 Jurado por Mexico." "A 24 de Enero de 1823." on edge "Su Norte es la ley." Silver and Copper. 21 1 2

Mexico. Accolated heads to right—"Agustin y Ana en su feliz exaltacion al trono ymperial de Mexi'o. Ao. 1823.

Rev. Crown sceptre and sword on cushion—above—eye and rays—below inscription viz: "Al libertador de la patria al fundador del ymperio al invicto Agustin I. en monumento de lealtad el consejo de estado." In exerge "F. Gordillo, F." Silver, Copper, and Cop. Silvered. 29

Queretaro, Agustiu and Aua, Copper and Silver. Size, 25

(This rare medal cannot be described here accurately because the piece is not just now in the hands of the writer.)

## EARLY DAYS OF THE UNITED STATES MINT.

On Apr. 15, 1790, Congress instructed the Secretary of the Treasury, Hon. Alexander Hamilton, to draw up a plan for the establishing a Mint. In accordance with this instrument, Mr. Hamilton drew up a very careful and elaborate report, which report was transmitted to Congress Jan. 28, 1791.

An objection, which seems to have existed in the minds of some persons, at that time, to the establishment of a Mint in this country, was a belief that the gold and silver coins would be exported almost as soon as issued, while the constant influx of Spanish and other coins—from which, presumably, most of the United States Coins would then be made—would increase the confusion already existing in the current money. In March, 1792, the Senate passed "An Act establishing a Mint, and regulating the Coins of the United States." As passed by the Senate this act required that the coins should bear a "representation of the President of the United States, for the time being, with an inscription, which shall express the initial or first letter of his Christian or first name, and his surname at length," and "the succession of the Presidency numerically." On being sent to the House of Representatives an amendment was offered, striking out the above quoted passage, and proposing instead to have a representation "emblematic of Liberty, with an inscription of the word LIBERTY." This amendment caused a warm debate, some of the members of the House thinking it savored too much of a spirit of royalty to have the head of the President upon the coins, while others thought the President, representing the people of the United States, might with great propriety represent them on their coins. The amendment was carried by the close vote of 26 to 22, and we thus barely escaped having on our coins a series of medallion portraits of all our Presidents. Certainly, whatever may be said from any other point of view, such a series of portraits of our Presidents would be very interesting, both historically and otherwise.

Although the amendment was passed the matter was not to end immediately, for the Senate disagreed to it.

It was then moved in the House that they recede from their amendment, but after listening to even longer and warmer speeches than had been made when it was passed, the motion failed. The following day (March 27, 1792,) a message from the Senate informed the House that they receded from their refusal to accept the amendment, and thus the bill was passed, receiving the approval of President Washington on Apr. 22, 1792. Steps were immediately taken to carry out the intention of the act, a lot of ground being purchased, building erected, machinery procured, &c., &c.

On Sept. 11, 1792, the first purchase of metal from which to make coins was made. Said metal consisting of six pounds of old copper, costing "1s 3d" per lb. In the beginning of October, some half dimes, (now known as Martha Washington half-dimes) were coined, and before the expiration of the year some other pattern pieces were also made, but no emission of regular coins occurred until 1793, when cents and half do were minted.

Excepting a small number of dollars and half do. (Col. Snowden says 1758 of the former and 5300 of the latter) and a few pattern half-dimes, no coins excepting cents—and not a sufficiency of these to meet the popular demand—were issued up to the beginning of 1795. This delay on the part of the Mint in issuing coins, although, for those times, it was under large expense, aroused much opposition to it both in and out of Congress. On Dec. 9, 1794, a letter from Mr. David Rittenhouse, the first Superintendent of the Mint, was read in the House of Representatives. It bore date Oct. 28, 1794, and said a beginning had been made in coin-ing the precious metals. (1758 silver dollars, as above stated, for the 5300 half do. were not issued until December.) 120,000 ounces of bullion had been deposited in the Mint, for coinage, but much of it was too base for the standard of the United States. It had been successfully refined in the Mint, and the process was still going on. A quantity of blank dollars was ready for coinage, but a more powerful press, which was requisite to complete them for circulation, had not been finished. Cents to the value of about \$10,000 had been coined since



*May 27.* Coins and Medals. Catalogue by Mr. T. R. Strowbridge. Sold at Clinton Hall, New York; 280 lots.

*May 29.* Coins and Medals; Pattern pieces, etc. Catalogue by Mr. Ed. Cogan. Sold by Bangs & Co., New York; 575 lots.

*June 5th and 6th.* Ancient and Modern Coins and Medals. Catalogue by Mr. S. K. Harzfeld. Sold by Bangs & Co., New York; 1094 lots.

*June 10.* American and Foreign Coins and Medals, Fractional Currency, etc. Catalogue by W. E. Woodward. Sold at Boston; 690 lots.

*June 13 and 14.* Ancient and Modern Coins, Early American Medals, etc. Catalogue by Mr. Ed. Frossard. Sold at Bangs & Co., New York; 1184 lots.

*June 20.* Silver and Copper Coins, Etc. Catalogue by Mr. Ed. Cogan. Sold by Bangs & Co., New York; 560 lots.

*June 20.* Colonial Paper Money. Catalogue by Mr. Charles De F. Burns. Sold at Bangs & Co., New York; 297 lots. A valuable catalogue for collectors of Colonial and Continental Bills.

*June 27.* Copper and Silver Coins, chiefly Modern. Also a collection of Confederate States Bonds and Bills. Catalogue by Ed. Frossard. Sold by Bangs & Co., New York; 439 lots.

*June 27.* American Coins. Catalogue by S. H. Morgan. Sold at Pittsburgh, Pa; 221 lots.

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#### COMING SALES

*July 17.* At Birch & Son's, 1110 Chestnut St., Phila., a small collection of Autographs and Coins

Mr. J. W. Haseltine will have a two days' sale at Bangs & Co., New York, in the latter part of this month.

Mr. Woodward will have an important sale in the latter part of September. This will

include the Pecker and Gerdt's Collections, and will contain several thousand pieces.

NOTE. Numisma makes no charge whatever for the announcement of sales. Dealers and all parties interested are requested to notify us of time and place as early as possible.

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#### NUMISMATIC PUBLICATIONS, ETC.

*Monograph of U. S. Cents and Half-Cents* by Ed. Frossard. The descriptive part of the work is now ready to go to press (Marvin & Sons, Publishers, Boston, Mass.) and subscribers can confidently expect to receive their copies at an early date. We take this occasion to tender our thanks to Messrs. Cottier, of Buffalo, and Parmelee, of Boston, who have greatly facilitated our labors by forwarding to us for inspection many rare cents and half cents, that we could not easily have found outside of their cabinets, also to many correspondents for judicious advice and valuable information.

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*The falsification of Ancient Coins*, a valuable contribution to numismatic literature; read before the Num. & Ant. Society of Phila., April 3d, 1879, and published in pamphlet form by S. K. Harzfeld, Esq., Phila.

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Mr. E. F. Gambs, the well known Postage Stamp dealer of St. Louis Mo., has our thanks for a copy of his Stamp Dealers Directory.

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*Prices of old Rare Coins, Medals, Paper Currency and Colonial Coins of America*: illustrated. Published by A. M. Smith & Co., dealers in old rare coins, 72 North 4th St., Phila., Pa. A neat little manual containing very full lists of American coins with their market value.

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Mr. Wm. P. Brown, 145 Nassau St., New York, has issued three new numbers of the Curiosity Cabinet. One of these contains

We are not aware of any coins of the empire prior to those of Iturbide which are of the years 1822 and 1823. The latter consist of the gold ounce, silver dollar, quarter, dollar or peceta, eight dollar, or real and sixteenth dollar, or medio. We are not certain as to smaller gold coins. The above were struck only in Mexico.

Gold ounce 1822, small head to right. "Augustinus dei Providentia Mo. 1822." Rev. Crowned eagle perched upon nopal to the leaves of which are attached various aztec weapons. "Mex. 1. Imperator Constitut. 8, S. J. M."

Gold ounce 1823. Large head to right. Inscriptions the same as above. Rev. Shield with small crowned eagle on nopal. Aztec weapons below in this case.

Dollar 1822. Small head to right. "August. dei. Prov. Mo. 1822." Rev. Small eagle, only one leg visible. "Mex. 1. Imperator. Constitut. 8. R. J. M." There are three slight varieties of this dollar.

Dollar 1822. Large head to right. ~~Rare~~. Large eagle. Inscriptions same as the above dollar with small head. This piece is the rarest of the dollars.

Dollar 1822. Large head to right. "Augustinus dei Providentia. Mo. 1822." Rev. Large eagle. "Mex. 1. Imperator constitut." "8 R. J. M." We have seen five slight varieties of this dollar.

Dollar 1823. Large head to right. "Augustinus dei Providentia Mo. 1823." Rev. Large eagle. "Mex. 1. Imperator Constitut." "8 R. J. M." We have seen five slight varieties of this dollar.

Peceta 1822. Two slight varieties.

Peceta 1823. Six slight varieties. A flaw appeared in one of these dies at the base of the neck, which can be traced, by those interested, as it increased in size, giving thus at least half a dozen other seeming varieties.

Real 1822. Rare, in fine condition.

Real 1823. Very rare.

Medio 1822. Three slight varieties.

Medio 1823. Three slight varieties.

There is a dollar of Ferdinand VII struck at Guanajuato in 1822. Some interest attaches to this piece as a Spanish Mexican cotemporary and struck at a city less than 150 miles distant from the city of Mexico, the year after the independence.

Iturbide resigned March 20, 1823, and left the country. He was to receive a pension for his support abroad, but the penalty of returning to Mexico was death. Nevertheless in 1824 he was arrested entering the Republic disguised, and executed July 19, 1824, by order of the authorities of the State of Tamaulipas, denying him the delay asked for until the central government could be apprised.

SKILTON

#### COIN SALES.

May 1st and 2d. Gold, Silver and Copper Coins, Ancient and Modern; the collection of Mr. Michael Moore, of Trenton Falls, N. J. Catalogue of Ed. Cogan, Esq.; sold by Bangs & Co., 739 Broadway, New York, 1120 lots.

May 20th. Coins, Medals, Paper Money, Etc. Catalogue by Mr. Henry Cook; sold at Boston, 673 lots.

May 21-24. The Wilder Collection of American Coins. Catalogue by Mr. J. W. Haseltine; sold by Bangs & Co., 739 Broadway, New York; 2063 lots. This catalogue ought to be in the hands of every collector of American silver coins.

May 23. Coin sale at Cincinnati, O. Catalogue by Mr. R. W. Mercer, 590 lots.

May 26. Indian Stone Implements, Peruvian Pottery, Coins, etc. Catalogue by Mr. T. R. Strowbridge. Sold at Clinton Hall, New York; 432 lots.



the establishment of the Mint. After the reading of this letter the House, by motion of Mr. Coit, of Conn., took up the subject of the Mint. Mr. Boudinot, of N. J., said he had gone to the Bank of the United States to enquire for cents, but was told none could be had because the Bank could not get them from the Mint. He then went to the Mint and was informed that cents were not coined faster because the officials "*did not know where to get them vented*," (circulated.) He said the Mint cost \$24,000 per annum, and every cent coined there cost the public *several cents*, although he could not tell exactly how many. In New Jersey far more cents had been coined in a few months than had ever been coined all together at the Mint of the United States, and this had been done at one-fortieth part of the expense the latter had cost. Several other members spoke of the great inconvenience which was felt all over the country for want of copper coins; and it appeared to excite some curiosity on what foundation the officers of the Mint said they could not get their cents vented.

It was remarked by a member that, except as to Philadelphia, the Mint was of little or no use whatever, as the cents given out never went farther than the city. A Committee of three was appointed to examine and report on the state of the Mint, Mr. Boudinot being one of three.

The next day—Dec. 10, 1794—an article respecting this affair, and the Mint in general, appeared in the *Philadelphia Gazette*. The writer, after showing the running expenses of the Mint for the then current year to be \$14,985 adds "the whole money coined was, at most, not more than \$7,350; the expense is more than *double* the product."—by \$285. Evidently the writer referred only to the cents coined, taking no account of the few dollars and halves which had been issued, as in one place he says—"the public never have seen any of this silver coin, a few specimens excepted." The number being so small they would be retained as curiosities by those who should obtain them, and consequently not fulfill their intended function as a circulating currency.

Speaking of the three *clerks* employed—besides the Director, Assayer, Chief Coiner, Engraver, Treasurer and workmen, there

were four in 1795—the writer says "what occasion could there be for such an apparatus of placemen about a few cents? The United States may have a thousand tons of cents, whenever they choose to send and pay for them, from Birmingham, at an expense on their actual value of one or two per cent. at the utmost, and the salaries of all this regiment of stipendiaries may be saved." The writer farther said "instead of copper coin the people of America are, almost over the Continent, using *dirty paste board*. In the meantime the Mint Officers do not strike half as many cents as are equal to discharging their own salaries." The writer was evidently very much in earnest, and added much more in the same strain as above quoted. Mr. Boudinot, apparently, while on the Committee, experienced a change of mind, for said Committee, on bringing in its report—judging by the writings of that time—to use an expression of the present day, "white-washed" the whole matter.

During the year 1795, as far as we have been able to ascertain, everything seems to have gone along quietly with the Mint, but in 1796 an attempt was made to stop its operations entirely. On Jan. 19, 1796, the House being in Committee of the Whole on the bill of appropriations, Mr. Williams, of New York, moved to strike out all that gross sum appropriated for the officers of the Mint. The Speaker—Jonathan Dayton, of N. J.,—thought the motion too extensive. He would vote to strike out the \$10,000 for the purchase of new copper, and Mr. Williams agreed to restrict his motion. A long debate ensued, during which it was mentioned by one member that "every cent coined in the Mint has cost the public ten." The amended motion was carried in the Committee, and reported to the House. Mr. Livingstone, of New York, immediately moved that the whole appropriation for the Mint should be struck out. A member expressed his hope that the motion would prevail. He said he had had occasion to go to the Mint on business for a bank, and had seen the way in which business was managed. The institution, he said, was a bad one, and badly conducted. It had been scandalously carried on; and with very little advantage to the public. It not to be better managed in the future than it had been, it

a full list of Confederate States bills and bonds, which Mr. Brown offers at the most reasonable rates, and in this connection it may be proper to state that Mr. Brown, having bought the entire stock of C. H. Bechtel, Esq., is now the largest holder of Confederate Currency and Bonds in the world.

Mr. Chas. de F. Burns, 157 Mercer St., New York, has issued a catalogue of a private collection of autographs for sale by him. (June, 1879.)

We have received No. 1 of the Coin Journal, illustrated; published by Mr. Chas. Steigerwalt, 130 East King St., Lancaster, Pa.; a neat little paper, devoted as its title indicates, to collecting in general, and numismatics in particular.

Vol. 1 No. 1 of *Masons Coin Collectors' Herald*, published by Mason & Co. Phila. Pa. is out. This paper is designed to be the continued publication of the Coin Journal, by the same firm, the publication of which, much to the regret of many collectors, was suspended some years ago. Mr. Mason, in noting our article on Irregularities at the Philadelphia Mint joins in our demands of a proper investigation on the subject of restrikes, but he errs in imagining that our charges are directed against any particular individual in the U. S. Mint. What we want is not so much an investigation among the dry bones of the past as into the present method of distributing pattern pieces. To be specific, we should for instance like to know the names of the mint officials who sold the Barber and Morgan pattern dollars at say \$20 a set; also if this money went into Uncle Sam's coffers? It is of no use to evade the question, Bro. Mason. To be perfectly honest and fair the mint authorities must either *sell pattern pieces openly, and to the highest bidder, or have as many struck, during the year, as will satisfy*

*the demand of coin collectors.* Suppose that 20 Barber and Morgan pattern dollars had been offered at public auction, with the assurance that no more could be struck. At least \$1,000 would have been realized from their sale. This money could have been used to purchase many beautiful and rare coins for the Mint Cabinet. Notoriety would have been given the sale by the press; an interest in numismatic pursuits awakened among the public; new collectors would have sprung up by the hundred. Instead of that, we find these beautiful pattern pieces hawked about the country at enormous prices, nothing is known about the number issued; collectors are disgusted, and the good name of the mint suffers—all for sale of allowing a few rapacious scoundrels already fattened at the public crib to add a few more dollars to their gains. Let us hear from you again Bro. Mason.

HAVING consulted a celebrated astrologer, we can confidently announce the impending discovery of a Confederate States Dollar. This will complete the series, (unless the gold coinage should be taken in hand by some enterprising firm) as the following are already known: The cents, half dimes, dimes, quarters, and half dollars. What next?

#### NUMISMATIC MOONSHINERS.

Dealers sending coins on approval to Mr. Jonas Adler, Pittsburgh, Pa., will do well, if they wish to assure a safe delivery, to address the distinguished coin dealer in care of one of the Town Justices, or of the Sheriff of the County.

Mr. Wm. Douglass, Zanesville, O., is politely requested to send us balance due for the last 2 years.

We have a list of about 15 petty coin swindlers, for the greater part located in small western towns. From a P. O. Box as a centre, they spread their nets to catch such game as may come within their reach. As no reputable dealer will trust them for over 25 cents of coins at a time, the forming of a cabinet is slow work with them. Hard work in the corn field would pay better in the long run.





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